

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-41. (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) An ablation probe, comprising:

an elongated member having an exterior wall, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into each of the electrical insulators;

a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the ~~elongated member~~ respective insulator lumens; and

a plurality of ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members mechanically connected to the respective electrode tines through the respective apertures for being operable to independently move the respective electrode tines to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member.

43. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

44-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end of the elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

47. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

48. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

49. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.

50. (Currently Amended) An ablation system, comprising:

an ablation probe comprising:

an elongated member having an exterior wall, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into each of the electrical insulators;

a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the ~~elongated member~~ respective insulator lumens; and

a plurality of ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members mechanically connected to the respective electrode tines through the respective apertures for being operable to independently move the respective electrode tines to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member; and

an energy source coupled to the electrode tines.

~~52~~ 51. (Currently Amended) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

52-53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end

of the elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

55. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

56. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

57. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.

58. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the energy source is a source of radio frequency energy.

59. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the energy source is configured to supply energy to each electrode tine in cyclic intervals.

60. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the cyclic intervals are uniform.

61. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the cyclic intervals are non-uniform.

62. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 59, wherein the energy source comprises an energy generator and a distributor configured to cycle energy from the energy generator to the electrode tines.

63. (Previously Presented) The ablation system of claim 62, wherein the distributor comprises an active rotating electrode.

64. (Currently Amended) An ablation probe, comprising:

an elongated member having an exterior wall, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a plurality of electrical insulators extending through the elongated member, each of the insulators having a lumen, wherein the elongated member has apertures extending along the exterior wall into at least two of the electrical insulators;

a plurality of elongated electrode tines extending through the ~~elongated member~~ respective insulator lumens; and

a plurality of ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members associated with the proximal end of the elongated member, the ~~actuating mechanisms~~ side members mechanically connected to at least two of the respective electrode tines through the respective apertures for being operable to independently move the at least two electrode tines relative to each other to extend beyond, or retract within, the distal end of the elongated member.

65. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines are electrically insulated from each other.

66-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein each electrode tine has a distal end that conforms to an outwardly everted configuration when extended beyond the distal end of the elongated member and conforms to a radially constrained configuration when retracted within the distal end of the elongated member.

69. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines are tissue penetrating electrode tines.

70. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the elongated member is rigid.

71. (Previously Presented) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the elongated member comprises a cannula.

72. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines have proximal ends that are coiled at locations proximal to the respective side members.

73. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 42, wherein the electrode tines proximally extend from the proximal end of the elongated member.

74. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines have proximal ends that are coiled at locations proximal to the respective side members.

75. (Newly Added) The ablation system of claim 50, wherein the electrode tines proximally extend from the proximal end of the elongated member.

76. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines have proximal ends that are coiled at locations proximal to the respective side members.

77. (Newly Added) The ablation probe of claim 64, wherein the electrode tines proximally extend from the proximal end of the elongated member.